

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

*Week ending April 4, 2008*

State law assigns four core duties to the State Planning Office that include: 1) conducting continuing economic analysis, including economic forecasting, 2) coordinating the development of the State's economy and energy resources with the conservation of its natural resources; 3) providing technical assistance to towns and regions; and 4) providing technical assistance to the Governor and Legislature by undertaking special studies and plans and preparing policy alternatives.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

#### **Energy Resource Council Meeting**

April 8, 2008 at 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM, PUC, 242 State Street, Augusta, Maine

CONTACT: Donna Bradstreet at 287-5649 or [donna.bradstreet@maine.gov](mailto:donna.bradstreet@maine.gov)

#### **Regional Land Use Technical Assistance Coordinators Meeting**

April 11, 2008, 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM, Room 600 – Cross State Office Building, Augusta

CONTACT: Ruta Dzenis at 287-2851 or [ruta.dzenis@maine.gov](mailto:ruta.dzenis@maine.gov)

### DIRECTOR'S POLICY AND MANAGEMENT TEAM

**LD 2257 reported out of committee.** The Uniform Building and Energy Codes Act was voted favorably out of Legislature's BRED Committee this week on a 9-3 vote, with one absent. The bill passed with mandatory enforcement and the energy code included, which were points of contention. The minority report would remove those two items. The bill now goes to the full Legislature. **CONTACT: Sue Inches at 287-2989 or [sue.inches@maine.gov](mailto:sue.inches@maine.gov)**

**Regional efficiency grant funds eliminated.** Funding for the Efficient Delivery of Local and Regional Services was cut in supplemental budget actions for FY09 and FY10. \$500,000 had been available for each year of the biennium. This spring, municipal and regional government applicants submitted proposals totaling \$1.3 million for regional projects. A 7-member, independent, state-local-regional grants review panel had

reviewed proposals, but not awarded any grants, pending budget deliberations. The Department of Administrative and Financial Services, who administers the program, will notify applicants. **CONTACT:** Jody Harris at 287-5424 or [jody.harris@maine.gov](mailto:jody.harris@maine.gov)

### **COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

**Governor names members of the Solid Waste Management Advisory Council.** The Governor posted names for the 16-member solid waste management advisory committee this week, as follows:

Mike Barden, Augusta  
John Bubier, Biddeford  
Jackie Conway, Auburn  
Mark Draper, Caribou  
Martha Freeman, State Planning Office  
Carol Fuller, Mount Vernon  
Don Hudson, Wiscasset  
Joseph Kazar, Auburn  
Gregory Keene, Belgrade  
Fergus Lea, Auburn  
David Littell, Maine Department of Environmental Protection  
Greg Louder, Bangor  
Jeff McGown, Norridgewock  
Sue Millett, Portland  
Robert Peabody, Rockport,  
Kevin Roche, Portland

The committee was created to advise the State Planning Office on state solid waste management and recycling policies and program. It replaces the policy review committee, which only met every five years. This committee will meet at least annually and will assist the office with developing the state waste management and recycling plan, review legislative proposals, and advise on state recycling programs. **CONTACT:** George MacDonald at 287-5759 or [george.macdonald@maine.gov](mailto:george.macdonald@maine.gov)

### **LAND FOR MAINE'S FUTURE PROGRAM**

**LMF proposals plentiful.** The Land for Maine's Future Program has received 44 proposals in the new round of funding that was approved by Maine voters last November. The proposals span the State, requesting funds for acquisitions in 15 out

of Maine's 16 counties. Requests were received for over \$26 million dollars, close to twice the funding available. The strong showing demonstrates the widespread interest in the program and need for land conservation funding. The LMF Board will review the proposals during the spring and make funding decisions at its July 8 meeting.

**CONTACT:** Tim Glidden at 287-1487 or [Tim Glidden](#)